

REMARKS

Applicants cancel claims 2-3, 5, 14-15, and 17. Claims 1, 4, 6-13, 16 and 18-24 remain pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 1 and 13 for further clarification, and amend claims 4, 6-11, 16, and 18-23 for proper dependencies. Applicants refer to Figs. 5-7 and their corresponding description—including page 17, line 10 to page 18, line 2 and page 20, line 22 to page 22, line 22—of the specification for exemplary embodiments of and support for the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the Information Disclosure Statement (“IDS”) that was filed on October 29, 2007.

Claims 1-2, 5, 7-8, 11-14, 17, 19-20, and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0143960 to Goren et al.; and claims 3-4, 6, 9-10, 15-16, 18, and 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goren et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,095,740 to Jagannath et al. Applicants amend claims 1 and 13 in a good faith effort to further clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references, and respectfully traverse the rejections.

Even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine Goren et al. and Jagannath et al., such a combination would still have, at least, failed to disclose or suggest,

“[a] network management system for managing a network, comprising:

 a network decomposition unit which decomposes said network into elements, and groups the elements into network components including at least one core network and branch networks;

 a table management unit which manages information on decomposition of the network into said network components by tabulating the information on decomposition;

 wherein said table management unit comprises,

 a branch information table for managing table for managing information on structures of said branch networks,

a core information table for managing information on at least one structure of said at least one core network,

a connection information table for managing information on connections between the at least one core network and the branch networks, and

a virtual-network generation unit which generates a virtual network as a new area to be managed, by combining said network components based on information managed by said table management unit;

said virtual-network generation unit, performing:

(a1) checking that designated branch networks are connected to the identical core network, where the designated branch networks are branch networks designated by operator,

(a2) checking that link bandwidths of the designated branch networks do not exceed the value of a link bandwidth of the core network,

(b1) obtaining branch connection points of the designated branch networks from the branch information table,

(b2) obtaining nodes having the branch connection points in the core network from the connection information table,

(b3) obtaining links from the core information table, where the links are physical transmission lines connecting the nodes,

(c) generating subnetwork connections by connecting the branch connection points, the nodes and the links,

(d) removing the subnetwork connections which pass through an identical link from the generated subnetwork connections,

(e) generating the virtual-network by connecting the subnetwork connections which pass through different links,” as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Advantageously, the claimed invention provides for significantly reducing the amount of bothersome work for generating a virtual network as an area to be managed, thus providing for improved efficiency in management and maintenance of the network, and usability and operability of the network management system.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that 1, together with claims 4 and 6-12 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Goren et al. and Jagannath et al. separately and in combination, for at least the foregoing reasons. Claim 13 incorporates features that

correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and is, therefore, together with claims 16 and 18-24 dependent therefrom, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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